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September 18, 2007

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on September 18, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz, Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, John Connolly, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Robert Trane and William White also present and voting. Also present were Solicitor John Gannon, Monica Lamboy and Anne Thomas from SPCD, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, representatives from Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT), Atty. Richard DiGirolamo, Brandon Wilson from Historic Preservation, Vincent Ciampa from the Winter Hill Yacht Club (WHYC) and Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce.

The committee discussed a petition that would authorize DCAM to convey an easement on a parcel of land at the WHYC to allow for easier access to Drawer Seven Park. Representatives from FRIT told the members that letters concerning this matter were sent to the elected officers of the WHYC and that FRIT will press the state to provide a written commitment for the re-design of Drawer 7 Park.

explained the Article 97 process and how it would pertain to the redevelopment of Assembly Square to allow for 3 easements, as follows:

1. Drawer 7 Park crossing for stormwater management
2. Reservation crossing north of Fellsway for stormwater discharge, and
3. reservation crossing for a new Drawer 7 entrance

In order for the Article 97 process to be completed, a 2/3 vote of the legislature is required before the governor can sign it into law. Additionally, an environmental impact report must be filed and there must be compliance with EOEA's land disposition policy. There are also ministerial actions required by DCR, DCAM and IG.

FRIT's representative told the members that some of the benefits to the public would include:

- new public recreational and open space opportunities in the form of a 1.8 acre waterfront park
- an improved Mystic River Reservation along the riverfront, including a new pedestrian/bicycle underpass at the Fellsway

- an attractive and visible entrance to Drawer 7 Park along with improvements to the park, itself
- the improvement of the water quality in the Mystic River and city neighborhoods, and
- putting vacant state land on the city's tax rolls, thereby increasing city revenue

FRIT representatives discussed the construction issues involving the Ten Hills area and stated that mitigation would have to be implemented if there is ground water getting into the sewer.

The committee suggested that the developer and the Administration meet within two weeks with representatives of the WHYC to discuss the home rule petition and to try to work out a compromise. Chairman Taylor has continued this matter until the October 2, 2007 meeting. Chairman Taylor also requested that representatives from FRIT and the WHYC meet with the Winter Hill Neighborhood Task Force to discuss the home rule petition and to try to work out a compromise, prior to the next committee meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Taylor asked that the minutes of those meetings be presented to the committee at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

On another matter, Ms. Wilson asked that the committee postpone the discussion of the Historic District Expansion Project as key members of the commission were unavailable for this meeting.

Chairman Taylor's motion *that all members of the Historic Preservation Commission and all affected property owners be notified to appear before the Legislative Matters Committee on October 2, 2007 to discuss the Historic District Expansion Project*, was approved.

No papers were acted on.

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Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman  
Committee on Legislative Matters

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee of the Whole on  
Legislative Matters, September 18, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk